



## King County

### **Mental Health, Chemical Abuse And Dependency Services Division**

Department of  
Community and Human Services

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## **King County Community Organizing Program Board Meeting Summary October 28th, 2009**

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Board Members present: Liz Wilhelm, Snohomish County; Helena Stephens, City of Bellevue Youth Programs; Kim Walker, Maple Valley Community Center; Kimberly Beeson, Puget Sound ESD; Mark Howard, City of Seattle Police Department.

Staff Members Present: Laura Edwards, Program Coordinator; Cheryl Hansen, Laura Quinn, and Stefanie Fox, Community Organizers.

- **OPENING AND UPDATES**

Everyone gave personal and professional updates.

- **ORGANIZER REPORTS**

### **Greater Seattle: Stefanie Fox, Organizer**

Stefanie reported ongoing work with the countywide coalitions she staffs--the Seattle/King County Gang Workgroup, the Youth and Young Adults Committee of the Seattle King County Coalition on Homelessness, and the Safe Schools Coalition. She also reported that she is doing one-on-one transition coaching with the outgoing executive director of YouthSpeaks Seattle. And that she trained the new outreach and organizing staff at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound. She is working with a number of anti-youth violence organizations to develop upcoming events, including an art project in Rainier Valley in collaboration with the Seattle Police Department, where young people can turn in their weapons and they will be melted down for sculptures designed by the youth.

### **North and East King County: Laura Quinn, Organizer**

Laura reported that the youth from Skykomish who attended the State Prevention conference in Yakima had an amazing time. She had done a great deal of work to connect them to scholarships provided by the Attorney General's office, as well as buying shirts that the youth wore at the conference. They reported that the Service Learning component was very valuable to them, and that getting to actually swim at the hotel was another highlight!

Laura is working to help set up two youth councils in the upper and lower Snoqualmie Valley. She reported that some of these youth attended a CADCA conference this summer and learned about community mapping, which she helped them to do and they presented this at the Key Leader's Summit held in August. This presentation helped to energize the community to support these youth councils.

She is also working with several youth councils in the North end, which had received grants through the Northshore Community Network. There are several great projects that these groups are working on, including a Diversity Poster contest for elementary school kids in Lake Forest Park, and putting on youth summits in both Northshore and Shoreline. All in all, things are very busy, and she reported getting many more requests for funding, and there are some exciting things happening.

### **South King County: Cheryl Hanson, Organizer**

Cheryl reported that the Vashon Island Prevention Teams are hard at work to keep the funding going for the Youth/Adult dialogues. The first one was Oct. 28 and the discussion title was "Media, Music and Madness". There were about 35 youth and 25 adults who came for fun, food and a great discussion that was led by the youth. She also reported that the Vashon Island Health and Safety Network is also going strong, and the community assessment is done and approved by the Family Policy Council, so funding can continue for more prevention activities on the Island. The Maple Valley Youth Coalition will have a training retreat Nov. 8 and 9th. The youth are getting re-trained to be peer helpers with the DateWise program which we fund. The Highline School District started its gang prevention nights in September. Youth and parents attend and will hear presentations from the King County Sheriff's office, school counselors and other concerned community folks. We help fund this program which will continue until December. In the Kent area, the "Game of Life" prevention conference will be held December 9th and 10th. Eight school districts in South King County will send youth to this education and prevention conference. COP supports this with Organizer time and we are paying for the Keynote speaker this year.

## **• PROGRAM UPDATES**

### **County Budget**

We reviewed the impacts of the County Budget on the Community Organizing Program. It was shared that the Mental Health Chemical Abuse and Dependency Division will not be making many cuts due to the Mental Illness Drug Dependency (MIDD) 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1% tax funds that will be administered by the Division. The Community Organizing Program will not be directly affected. Since our funding is a combination of State and Federal funds we will be watching those budgets closely in the coming year.

### **DASA/CM All Provider Meeting**

Laura E reported that she attended the Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (DASA) and Community Mobilization (CM) All Provider State meeting held in Yakima. The main topics discussed were:

- The 6 Year Strategic Plan
- Federal National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign, Robert Dennison, Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)
- Compassionate Schools, Dixie Gruenfelder, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

### **• BOARD BUSINESS**

#### **Legislative Updates:**

Liz reported on the status of the Wine and Beer Sampling legislation. She reported that 30 stores will be selected by lottery to conduct sampling as part of this pilot project. A handout of the beer and wine tasting schedules by local stores was shared so that folks could see when their local store might be doing tasting. Liz encouraged us to speak to store manager's to communicate our concern regarding the message of sampling wine and beer in family friendly grocery stores, the risk of alcohol consumption and driving, and that it is unsupportive of our recovery community. Stores not participating could be rewarded with recognition from community groups for their family-friendly practices.

#### **Board Recruitment**

We reviewed the State Department of Community Trade and Economic Development's requirement for representation on Community Mobilization (CM) Boards. It was decided that we will try to recruit someone representing parents, someone from Treatment and perhaps someone from the Alcoholism Advisory Board. We brainstormed some possible choices and decided we would give those specific folks a Board Packet and invite them to our January 27<sup>th</sup> meeting for orientation.

#### **Board Retreat/Vision Meeting**

It has been a couple of years since we held a Board planning retreat. This idea was discussed. It was shared that some folks feel like we should do this only if it is necessary, and that with our 6 Year Strategic Plan which directs the focus of the program for the next 6 years, that we postpone this until it makes more sense for planning purposes. We did decide that our January meeting might need to be longer especially if we are welcoming new members.

**Other Items:**

Reminder: **King County/ MHCADSD Legislative Forum** will be held on Thursday December 10, 2009 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at St. Marks Cathedral, Bloedel Hall, 1245 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue East, Seattle, Washington

**NEXT MEETING**

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Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at WSU King County Extension  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
200 Mill Avenue South  
Suite 100  
Renton, WA 98057